

IN RECOGNITION OF " FOSTER CARE MONTH"

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our State; and

WHEREAS, in Georgia there are over 500,000 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure, and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of the foster family; and

WHEREAS, over 142,000 foster families, who open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role helping children and families heal and reconnect and launching children to successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, there are 25,000 youth who reach their 18th birthday and "age-out" of foster care, too often unprepared and without the ongoing support and guidance of caring adults; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, do hereby proclaim May 2002 "FOSTER CARE MONTH" in Augusta-Richmond County and urge all citizens to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents, and the professional staff working with them during this month and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Augusta, Georgia to be affixed this ninth day of May 2002.